

Appl. No. 10/735,063
Amdt. dated March 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 19, 2005

REMARKS

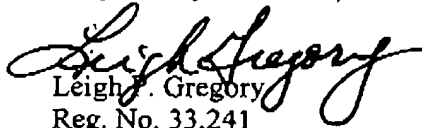
Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 13, and 21 have been amended. The remaining claims are as originally presented.

Claims 1 – 21 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Lahtinen 2003/0059463. The Examiner argues that the reference discloses all of the elements of independent claim 1 as previously written as well as biomolecules including polylysine, albumin and fibrinogen immobilized on a blood contacting surface of a composite vascular construct. However, the reference fails to disclose or suggest the present means by which such biomolecules may be immobilized on the blood compatible surface. Specifically, independent claim 1, from which all remaining claims ultimately depend, has been amended to require sulfonic groups on the present blood contacting surface. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the present rejection.

Thus, it is submitted that the present case is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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